

I. AMENDMENTS

The claims, after entry of all amendments, recite as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of modulating phosphate homeostasis in a subject comprising altering the activity of a polypeptide encoded by the FRP-4 gene within the subject.
2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein phosphate homeostasis is modulate by delivering to the subject an effective amount of an agent that alters the activity of a polypeptide encoded by the FRP-4 gene.
3. (Withdrawn) A method of modulating phosphate homeostasis in a subject comprising altering the expression of a polynucleotide encoding FRP-4 polypeptide within the subject.
4. (Withdrawn) A method for modulating renal phosphate transport in a subject, comprising delivering to the subject an effective amount of an agent that alters the activity of a polypeptide encoded by the FRP-4 gene.
5. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing phosphate re-absorption in a subject in need thereof comprising delivering to the subject an effective amount of a mammalian frizzled-related protein-4 ("FRP-4 protein").
6. (Withdrawn) A method of reducing phosphate re-absorption in a subject comprising delivering to the subject an effective amount of a polynucleotide encoding the FRP-4 protein.
7. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for candidate therapeutic agents that modulate the expression of the FRP-4 gene comprising contacting a target cell with a test agent and monitoring expression of the FRP-4 gene, wherein a test agent which modifies the expression of the FRP-4 gene is a candidate therapeutic agent.
8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the candidate agent is a biological or chemical compound selected from the group consisting a polypeptide, a polynucleotide, a ribozyme, and a small organic molecule.
9. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for candidate agents capable of altering the biological activity of a polypeptide encoded by the FRP-4 gene, comprising contacting a target cell expressing a FRP-4 polypeptide with a test agent and monitoring activity of the expressed

polypeptide product, wherein a test agent which modifies the activity of the polypeptide is a candidate agent.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein the candidate agent is a biological or chemical compound selected from the group consisting of a polypeptide, a polynucleotide, a ribozyme, or a small organic molecule.

11. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for candidate agents that modulate the activity of the FRP-4 protein comprising contacting a target cell with a candidate agent and monitoring the activity of the FRP-4 protein, wherein a candidate agent which modifies the activity of the FRP-4 protein is a candidate therapeutic agent.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the candidate agent is a biological or chemical compound selected from the group consisting of a polypeptide, a polynucleotide, a ribozyme, or a small organic molecule.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for candidate ligand that modulate the activity of the FRP-4 protein comprising contacting a target cell with a candidate agent and monitoring the activity of the FRP-4 protein, wherein a candidate agent which modifies the activity of the FRP-4 protein is a candidate ligand.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the candidate agent is a biological or chemical compound selected from the group consisting of a polypeptide, a polynucleotide, a ribozyme, or a small organic molecule.

15. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the frizzled-related protein-4 (“FRP-4 protein”) protein has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein the effective amount of the FRP-4 protein is delivered as a polynucleotide that encodes the FRP-4 protein.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a polynucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the polynucleotide that encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 comprises the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the polynucleotide is delivered in a gene delivery vehicle.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the polynucleotide is delivered in a gene delivery vehicle.